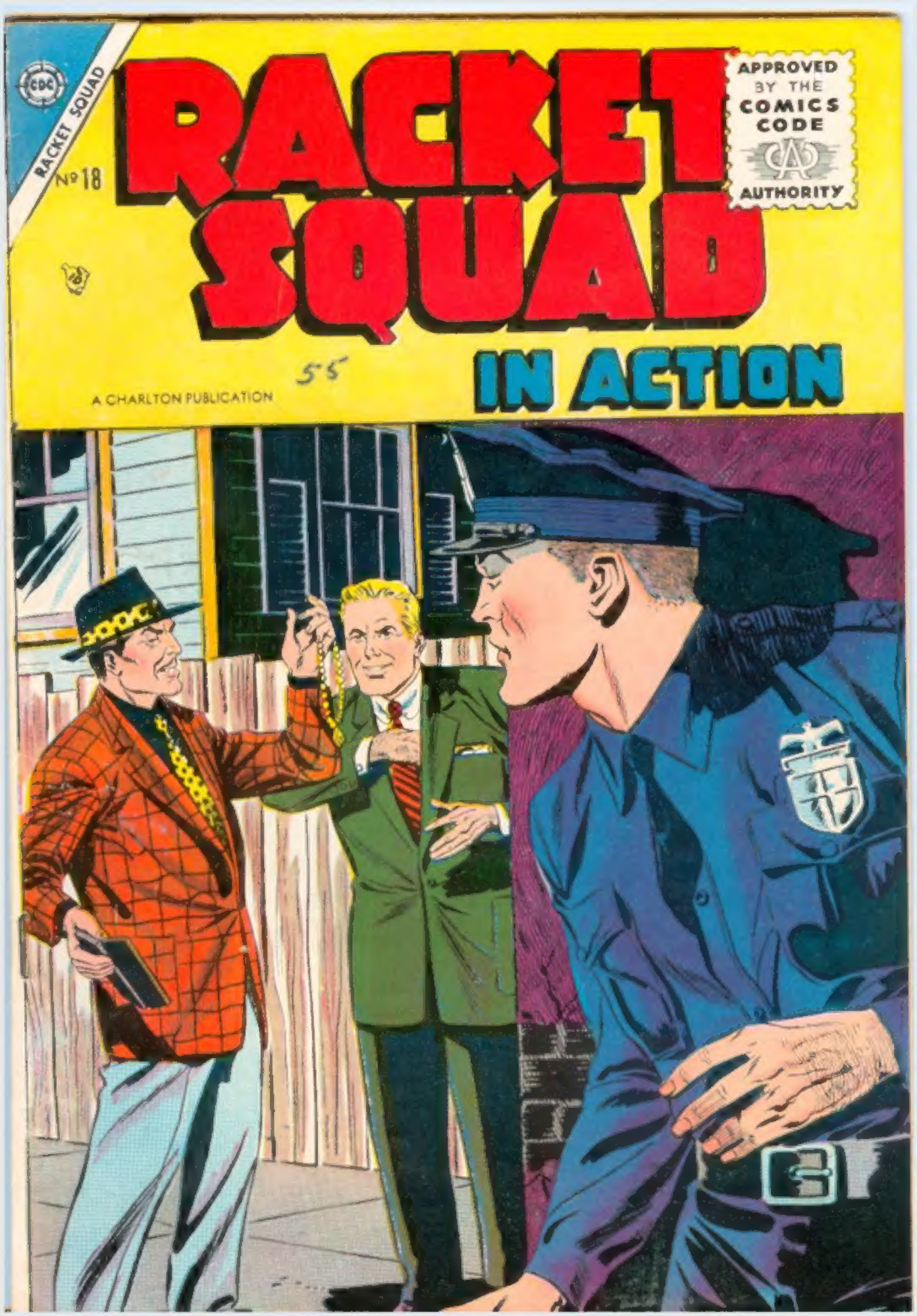
RACKET SQUAD
No 18
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
55
A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

AMAZING OFFER

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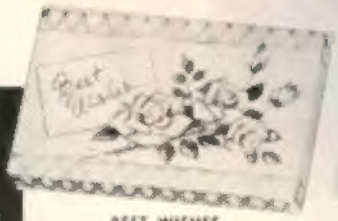

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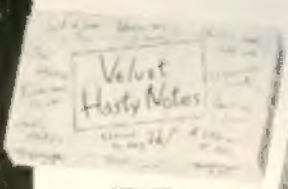

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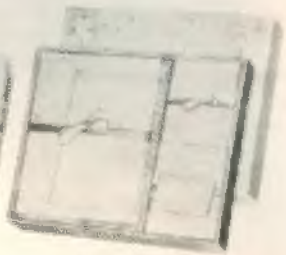

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RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION Volume 1, Number 16 September, 1955
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RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

The AWFUL WASTE

LOOK AT HIM!--TAKE A REAL GOOD LOOK...AND THEN MAKE SURE YOU NEVER FORGET! IT'S ALL WRAPPED UP IN A NUTSHELL RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES--THE CRAZY, SENSELESS WASTE OF A LIFE OF CRIME!

IT WAS A HOT AUGUST NIGHT--WE WERE SWEATING, BUT WE HAD TO WEAR COATS--MEN WITH SHOULDER HOLSTERS ALWAYS WEAR COATS...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THERE WAS NO ROUGH STUFF! EVERYTHING WENT SMOOTH AS SILK...
CUTE WAREHOUSE YOU HAVE HERE! BET YOU KEEP BETTER CHECK ON THIS STUFF THAN THE OUTFITS IT WAS STOLEN FROM!
GET MOVIN' INTO THE WAGON! YOU FENCES HAVE A LOT OF TALKING TO DO!
LATER, AT HEADQUARTER'S...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, WE KNOW YOU JUST WORKED THERE! BUT WHO WAS YOUR BOSS?
I--I KEEP TELLIN' YA! I NEVER SAW THE TOP MAN!
ANY LUCK?
SAME OLD STORY! ALL THEY DID WAS WATCH THE STUFF! BUT THERE WERE TWO SETS OF KEYS! THEY WOULD GET A PHONE CALL WHEN PICK-UPS WERE TO BE MADE! THEY'D CLEAR OUT AT THAT TIME... COME BACK IN AN HOUR, AND THE STUFF WAS GONE!
THE COMMISSIONER'S NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS!
CAN'T BLAME HIM! HE'S ACHING TO CLEAR THIS MESS UP!
SIT DOWN, MEN! NOW GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT! THERE ANY LEADS ON WHO THE BIG BOSS BEHIND THE RACKET IS?
NOPE! SAME OLD STORY!
WELL, WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE THAT STORY! WE'RE GOING TO GET TO WHO EVER'S BEHIND THE WHOLE DIRTY BUSINESS... OR I'LL KNOW THE REASON WHY!
2

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

HE THINKS HE'S BIG...WHOEVER HE IS...TO BIG AND TOO SMART EVER TO GET CAUGHT! HE'S TOP BANANA OF ALL RECEIVERS OF STOLEN GOODS! HE'S BUILT HIMSELF A NATIONWIDE RACKET...

"HE HAS DOZENS OF WAREHOUSES SPOTTED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY! THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT HE STOCKS! HE'LL TAKE ANYTHING THAT COMES HIS WAY..."

"WE'VE SENT HUNDREDS OF HIS MEN TO JAIL! AND THEY'VE ALL COME CLEAN... EVERY ONE OF THEM HAS TOLD US ALL HE KNOWS! BUT NOT ONE COULD TELL US WHO THE MAN ON TOP IS"...

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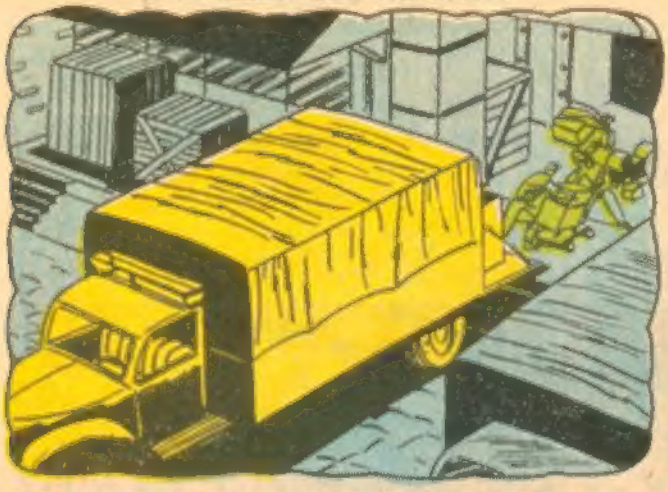
City _____ Zone _____ State _____

NOTE: No C.O.D.'s to Canada or points U.S.A. Please send $2.00 cash with order for each item.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

"AND EVERY TIME WE CLOSE DOWN A WAREHOUSE, ANOTHER ONE POPS UP SOMEWHERE ELSE... AND **HE**--WHOEVER HE IS--IS IN BUSINESS AGAIN...



IT JUST DOESN'T ADD UP! WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S BEEN ROLLING ALONG FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS NOW! BIG MONEY'S BEEN HEADING HIS WAY! WE'VE HAD THE TAX MEN WORKING WITH US, OPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO WATCH OUT FOR BIG SPENDERS! BUT THERE'S BEEN NO LEAD TO HIM YET!

ONLY ONE THING LEFT FOR US TO DO, WE'LL HAVE TO WORK FROM THE INSIDE! WE'LL HAVE TO GET ONE OF OUR MEN TO JOIN THE RACKET--AND GET TO THE TOP MAN THAT WAY!

UNDERCOVER WORK MEANT WE HAD TO IMPORT A MAN FROM ANOTHER CITY-- SOMEBODY WHO COULDN'T BE FINGERED AS A POLICE OPERATIVE...

HENDRICK OF FALL CITY!

GOOD! HERE'RE SOME PAPERS YOU'LL NEED! REPORT TO ME HERE SAME TIME, SAME DAY ONCE A WEEK!

PLATFORM 18

RACKET SQUAD

HENDRICK WAS A FAST WORKER BUT IT TOOK HIM OVER A MONTH TO MAKE HIS FIRST CONTACT...

I'M BUSTED, PAL--BUT I'M LOADED WITH HOT STUFF! YOU WOULDN'T KNOW A RIGHT JOHN WHO COULD CASH IT FOR ME, WOULD YOU?

MAYBE--COME ALONG!

HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE ON THE LEVEL?

WANT TO SEE MY CLIPPINGS? HEY, WAIT A SEC--WHO'S **ME**?

THAT'S POP. HE SWEEPS UP AROUND HERE! HE'S A DUMMY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM!

HMMM--YOU'VE SERVED PLENTY OF TIME ALL RIGHT! A REAL HEIST MAN--HUH? HOW'D YOU LIKE TO WORK STEADY?

IF THE PAY'S GOOD, WHY NOT?

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THIS IS A BIG OUTFIT! SOMETIMES WE GET...ER... SPECIAL ORDERS FOR STUFF, LIKE FUR COATS OR MEN'S SUITS! WE'LL GIVE YOU A LIST OF WHAT WE NEED!
WHERE DO I DELIVER THE STUFF?
YOU'LL HAND IT OVER TO ONE OF OUR TRUCKS! THE TRUCK'LL BE PARKED IN A DIFFERENT SPOT EVERY NIGHT! YOU PHONE IN... AND WE'LL TELL YOU WHERE!
HENDRICK FILLED HIS FIRST ORDER THAT NIGHT! HE'D ALERTED US, AND WE MADE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS-- WE EVEN WATCHED HIM PULL THE JOB TO MAKE SURE IT'D GO SMOOTH...
HE KEPT FILLING ORDERS FOR A WHOLE MONTH AND THEN...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE PHONE? WHAT'D YOU COME HERE FOR?
I'M TIRED OF WORKING FOR PEANUTS-- THAT'S WHY! I WANT TO SEE THE BIG BOSS... I WANT TO SQUEEZE SOME HEALTHY DOUGH OUT OF HIM!
YOU'D LIKE TO SEE HIM? SO WOULD I! THERE'S NOT ONE OF US WHO'S EVER SEEN HIM! HOW MUCH MORE DO YOU WANT? I'LL PASS THE WORD ALONG!
WHAT'RE YOU HANDING ME? IF YOU PASS THE WORD ALONG, IT'S GOTTA END UP SOMEWHERE!
I'M TELLING YOU...
AND I'M TELLING YOU THAT I'M SICK OF THIS RUN-AROUND! HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT JUST TRYING TO STALL ME? GIVE WITH SOME MORE DOPE, HOW DO YOU PASS THE WORD ALONG?
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT RIGHT FOR US, HENDRICK! WE DON'T LIKE GUYS ASKING QUESTIONS!
THE OLD DEAF MUTE, HE LOOKED AT HIM BEFORE HE ANSWERED! OF COURSE-- IT FIGURES!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

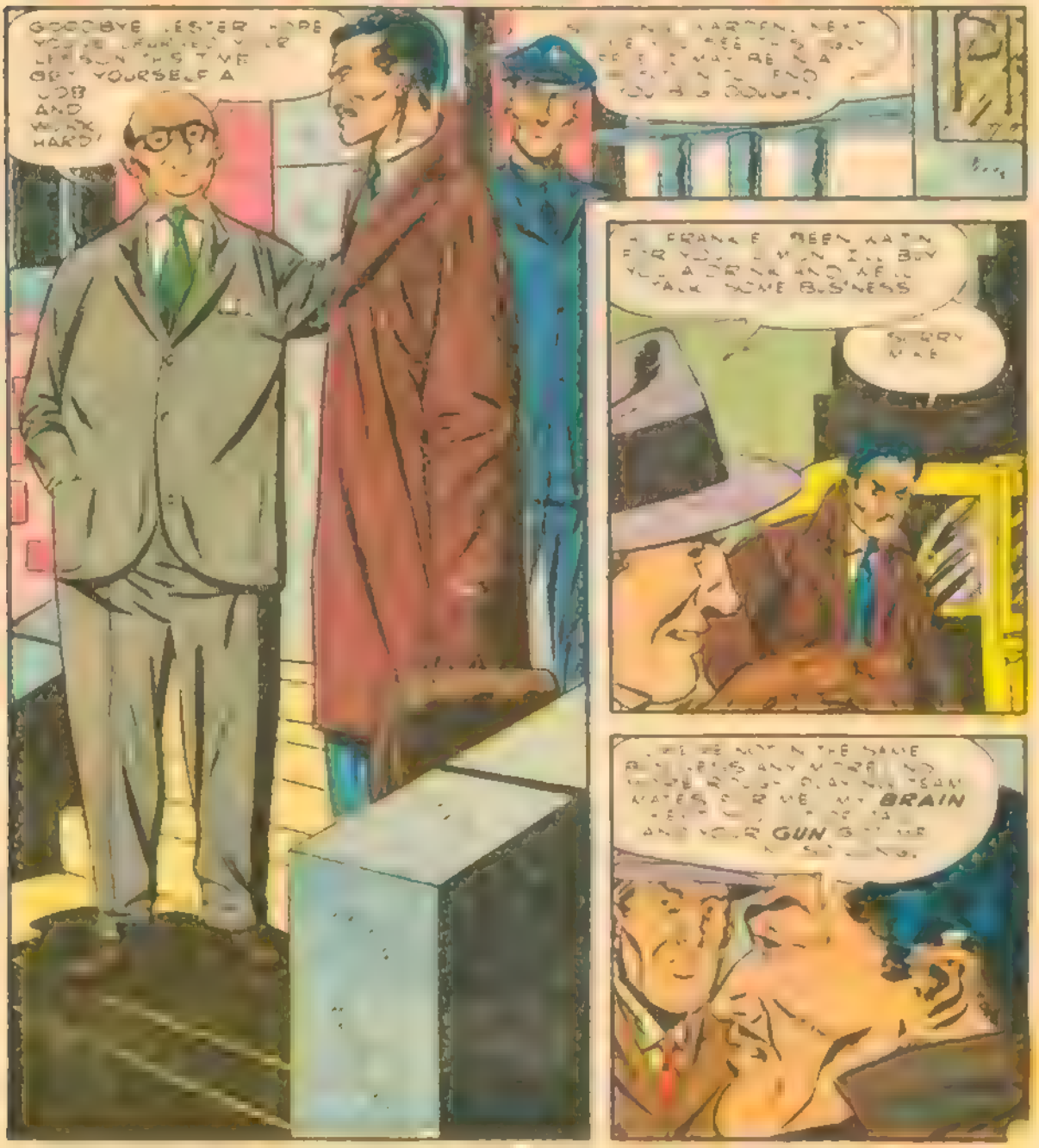
THE NEXT DAY...
I'M QUEERED WITH THE GANG! BUT I THINK I HAVE A LEAD! THERE'S AN OLD DEAF MUTE WHO SWEEPS OUT THEIR OFFICE! I HAVE A HUNCH HE'S THE CONTACT MAN WITH THE BOSS!
INFORM
SO WE PLACED A TAG ON OLD POR..
HE'S CARRYING A LEATHER BAG... COULD BE LOADED WITH DOUGH! THAT'S RIGHT --HENRY AND PENN STREETS!
HE WENT IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AGO!
I HAVE A JOHN DOE SEARCH WARRANT! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
WHO'S IN THERE WITH YOU, OLD MAN?
NO USE ASKING HIM! HE COULDN'T TALK IF HE WANTED TO! JUST MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T TAKE A POWDER WHILE WE'RE GOING OVER THE HOUSE INCH BY INCH!
NOBODY ELSE HERE! WHAT ABOUT THAT BLACK BAG HE WAS CARRYING?
I CHECKED IT-- IT'S EMPTY!
HEY! GET A LOAD OF THIS!
A WALL JOB... CALL THE DEPARTMENT FOR A MAN WITH KNOW-HOW ON OPENING SAFES! I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT STEEL DOOR!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

OUR MAN HAD SWUNG THE STEEL DOOR OPEN NOW...
WHEW--LOOKS LIKE FORT KNOX GOT LOST!
MILLIONS OF BUCKS--JUST LAYING THERE!
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
BRING THE OLD MAN IN! MAYBE I CAN GET A RISE OUT OF HIM! WAIT--FIRST I WANT A COUPLE GALLONS CANS OF KEROSENE!
SO WITH THE OLD MAN WATCHING...
THEY'RE ALL SOAKED RIGHT THROUGH!
GOOD! NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LIGHT THIS MATCH AND...
NO!! NO!!
YOU CAN TALK, HUH, POP? NOW KEEP ON TALKING...LET'S HAVE THE WHOLE STORY!
I...I'M THE BOSS! I SET THE RACKET UP...AND KEPT IT GOING! BUT NOBODY AT ALL KNEW--THEY THOUGHT I JUST TOOK MESSAGES TO THE BOSS...THAT HE'D PICKED ME BECAUSE I COULDN'T HEAR OR TALK! I'VE BEEN KEEPING THE MONEY HERE! I'VE NEVER SPENT ANY... NOT A CENT! I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SPOT ME IF I STARTED SPENDING IT...
BUT YOU COULDN'T STAND SEEING THE DOUGH GO UP IN SMOKE--RIGHT? THAT'S WHY YOU YELLED OUT! I WAS ONLY WORKING ON A HUNCH, BUT IT PAID OFF...TAKE HIM AWAY!
SEE WHAT I MEAN? WITH HIS BRAINS, HE COULD'VE BEEN A BIG HONEST MAN! AAAH... SOMETIMES IT MAKES A GUY FEEL SICK INSIDE TO SEE THE AWFUL WASTE!
The END

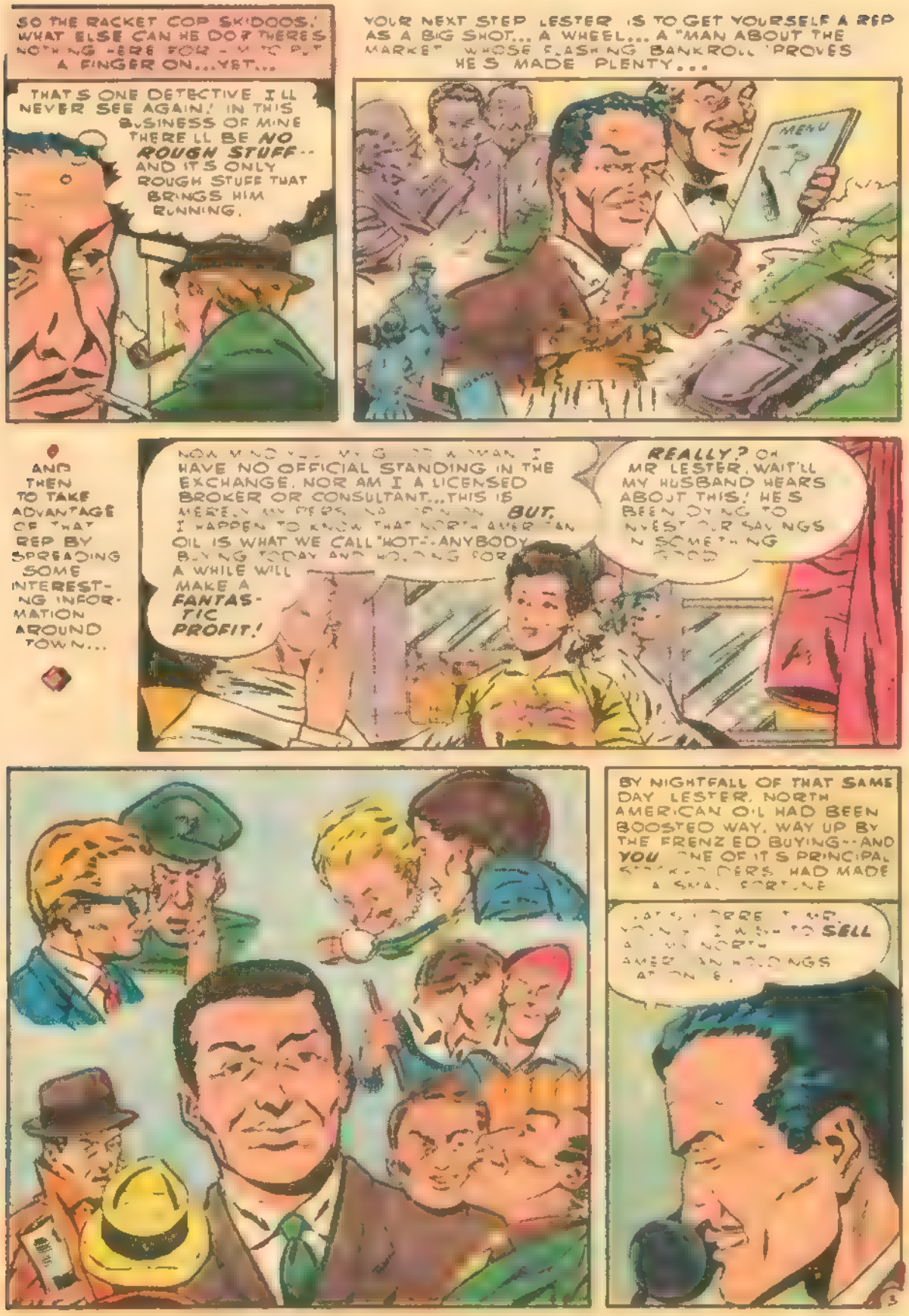
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE BEEN WALKED OUT OF THESE STEEL DOORS BY A POMPOUS FOOL OF A WARDEN. NOR IS THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE BEEN HANDED AN ENVELOPE CONTAINING TEN DOLLARS. LIKE SOME KID LEAVING FOR SCHOOL. NO **FRANK LESTER** THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME. BUT IT'LL BE THE LAST. YOU'VE DECIDED THAT...

THIS TIME YOU'LL PLAY IT SMART

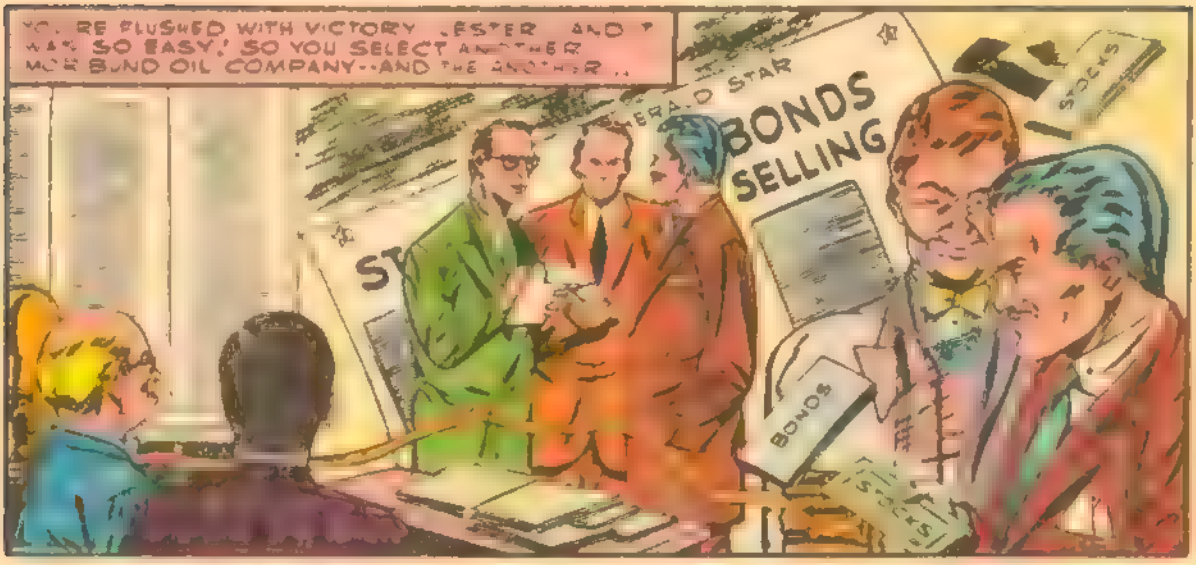

GOODBYE LESTER. HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON THIS TIME. GET YOURSELF A JOB AND WORK HARD!
I'LL BE SEEING YOU, WARDEN. NEXT TIME I MAY BE IN A BIGGER JOB AND YOU'LL BE OUGHT.
FRANKIE BEEN WAITIN' FOR YOU. WHEN I'LL BUY A DRINK AND WE'LL TALK SOME BUSINESS
SORRY MAC
WE'RE NOT IN THE SAME BUSINESS ANYMORE, NO MATTER HOW CLEVER YOU ARE. MY BRAIN AND YOUR GUN

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

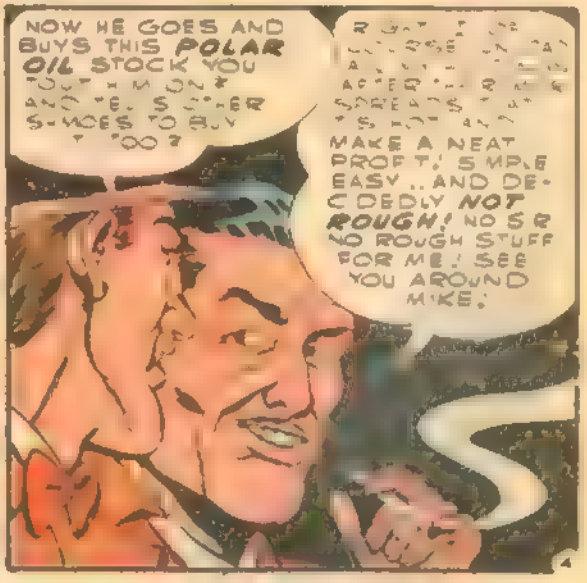

SO THE RACKET COP SKIDOOS! WHAT ELSE CAN HE DO? THERE'S NOTHING HERE FOR HIM TO PUT A FINGER ON...YET...
THAT'S ONE DETECTIVE I'LL NEVER SEE AGAIN! IN THIS BUSINESS OF MINE THERE'LL BE NO ROUGH STUFF--AND IT'S ONLY ROUGH STUFF THAT BRINGS HIM RUNNING.
YOUR NEXT STEP LESTER IS TO GET YOURSELF A REP AS A BIG SHOT... A WHEEL... A "MAN ABOUT THE MARKET" WHOSE FLASHING BANKROLL PROVES HE'S MADE PLENTY...
MENU
AND THEN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT REP BY SPREADING SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION AROUND TOWN...
NOW MIND YOU, MRS. [illegible] I'M NO EXPERT AND I HAVE NO OFFICIAL STANDING IN THE EXCHANGE, NOR AM I A LICENSED BROKER OR CONSULTANT...THIS IS MERELY MY PERSONAL OPINION, BUT, I HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT NORTH AMERICAN OIL IS WHAT WE CALL "HOT"--ANYBODY BUYING TODAY AND HOLDING FOR A WHILE WILL MAKE A FANTASTIC PROFIT!
REALLY? OH MR. LESTER, WAIT'LL MY HUSBAND HEARS ABOUT THIS! HE'S BEEN DYING TO INVEST OUR SAVINGS IN SOMETHING GOOD
BY NIGHTFALL OF THAT SAME DAY, LESTER, NORTH AMERICAN OIL HAD BEEN BOOSTED WAY, WAY UP BY THE FRENZIED BUYING--AND YOU, ONE OF ITS PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS, HAD MADE A SMALL FORTUNE
[illegible] I WANT TO SELL ALL MY NORTH AMERICAN HOLDINGS AT ONCE.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



SEE HIM? THAT'S JOSHUA COURTNEY. A MIDDLE INCOME JOE WITH A YEN TO BE RICH. HE'S A SUCKER FOR MARKET TIPS. IN FACT HE'S A SPECIAL SUCKER. ALWAYS GOOD FOR A FEW BUCKS TO LEAD THE BUYING PARADE
YOU MEAN EVEN IF HE GETS BURNED HE DOESN'T LEARN.

HE'S BEEN BURNED SO OFTEN HE'S GROWN THE HEAD WATCH THIS!
WHY MR. LESTER! HOW ARE YOU, SIR? ER...AH... ANYTHING GOOD ON THE MARKET THIS AFTERNOON?


NOW HE GOES AND BUYS THIS POLAR OIL STOCK YOU TOLD HIM ON AND HE'S SURE TO BUY IT TOO!
MAKE A NEAT PROFIT! SIMPLE EASY.. AND DECIDEDLY NOT ROUGH! NO SIR NO ROUGH STUFF FOR ME! SEE YOU AROUND MIKE!

Boys! Girls! Men! Women!

Do You Want Up to $50 or $100 EXTRA MONEY?

Here's A QUICK EASY WAY TO GET IT!

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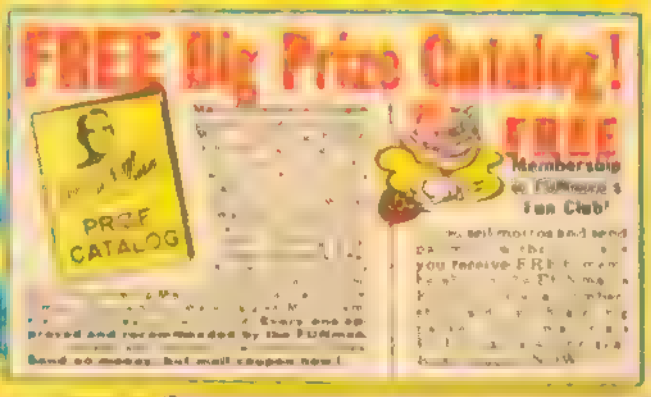

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The FUNMAN Dept. X-109 **FREE BIG PRIZE CATALOG**
5726 N. Broadway Chicago 40 Ill.
Please rush to me on 15 days credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos
[illegible] Prize Catalog FREE

NAME

STREET or RFD

TOWN STATE

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

POLAR OIL GOING UP, UP, UP! RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, LIKE A ROCKET TO THE MOON! AND TIME NOW FOR YOURS TRULY TO UNLOAD...
TICKER TAPE CATCHES YOUR EYE AND STOPS YOU COLD...
WHAT'S THIS? POLAR OIL
HAPPENED DOWN THERE?
WHAT? STRUCK OIL? OIL? B-B-THAT'S IMPOSS-B-LE!
YES MR. LESTER, KIND OF A FREAK THREE OF THE R WELLS CAME IN A COUPLA HOURS AGO WE JUST HEARD ABOUT IT HERE ON THE FLOOR OF THE EXCHANGE
C-CAN YOU BUY SOME OF IT BACK FOR ME? CAN YOU? CAN YOU??
I'M SORRY MR. LESTER NOT A CHANCE. ON A FLOOR WOULD SELL RIGHT NOW, I CAN'T GET MY HANDS ON EVEN A NICKEL'S WORTH.
AN HONEST REAL MILLION-DOLLAR KILLING... AND I'VE LOST IT--UNLESS I CAN GET SOMEONE TO SELL BACK-- COURTNEY! COURTNEY MIGHT!
COURTNEY, PLEASE.. LET ME BUY SOME OF YOUR POLAR OIL STOCK. SOME! AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THAT YOU'RE FINAL WORD YOU WON'T SELL ANY BACK TO ME?
NOPE BUT I'LL BE AWFUL GLAD TO SEE ME THEN AND I MAY BE YOU SOME OF 'EM ON THE MARKET.
HEY! YOU CRAZY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M GOING TO MAKE THAT WHINING LITTLE VICE OF YOURS SORRY. YES, I'M GOING TO CALL YOUR BROKER AND INSTRUCT HIM TO SELL EVERY PIECE OF POLAR OIL STOCK TO ONE FRANK T. LESTER.
IT STILL LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT TURN OUT ALL RIGHT FOR YOU AGAIN, EH LESTER? HAD TO RESORT TO A LITTLE ROUGH STUFF THOUGH DON'T YOU BUT A MAN LIKE COURTNEY WAS BORN TO BE SHOVED AROUND WASN'T HE?
HELLO HELLO BEALS SULLIVAN AND WHITE? THIS IS MR JOSHUA COURTNEY. YES I WISH TO..
DROP THE PHONE, LESTER NEXT TIME YOU TRY A GUY IN THE BATHROOM GIVE A LITTLE THOUGHT TO THE WINDOWS NOT TO MENTION THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT BE WORKING FOR THE RACKET SQUAD!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE ARREST-ING ME FOR? THE BROKEN NOSE, AMS.
IT NEVER WASN'T HAPPY AT THE BRUSH OFF I'M GIVE AT YOUR OFFICE, HE GIVE ME ON YOUR TAB A WEEK AGO I THINK ASSAULT WHEN YOU BARGE IN ME INTO THE BATHROOM AND ATTEMPT TO USE FRAUD ON THE PHONE WIRE STICK.
I'LL REALLY PLAY IT SMART NEXT TIME... I'LL WORK FOR A LIVING!
END

DON'T BE A SUCKER

To my knowledge, stated Griff the [illegible] there is just one thing on the carnival [illegible] gaffed — and that thing is the Ferris Wheel. But' — he added this with a solemn nod — if anybody asked me to bet a buck on which car would be at the bottom of the Ferris Wheel when it stops, I wouldn't take a chance. I'd know then that somebody had figured a gaff for the thing. Otherwise, nobody would be offering to put up moola.

Ever hear of a racket?" queried Griff. Well, the carnival biz is the original racket. Back when I first came with it — that's going on forty years now — we used to say 'He's in the racket' whenever we referred to another [illegible].

We went along. A blatant cry greeted us. Pop 'em in the bucket! Pop 'em in the bucket!" The bucket in question was slanted in back of a counter that was stocked with cheap baseballs and the idea very obviously was to toss a ball into the bucket without having it bounce out. There were three of these buckets in a line and three players were trying to sink baseballs with easy, underhand lobs.

So easy, you just couldn't miss.

That was how it looked, but not how it worked out. The players were placing them in the buckets, but the balls wouldn't stay. Always [illegible]. "Too bad," the grifter behind the counter would say. Close, but no cigar! No prize this time, but better luck next time!" Only next time, the player invariably missed one ball again.

I do not have to be a mind reader," declared Griff as he led us on our way, "to reveal your thoughts concerning the bucket game. You are thinking that the player must get nervous on the final ball and that is why he misses.

The truth is," stated Griff, 'that the operator gets careful. He steps on a pedal alongside the bucket platform and a second board presses up against the bucket. The double bottom is tight as a drum and a ball is sure to bounce out when it hits there. Cute, the way the grifter stands close to root that lad home like he really wanted the chump to win for once. He has to stand close to step on the gaff.

Griff stopped next at a counter where players were taking turns bombarding a big stuffed [illegible] cat that was perched on a stand near the back canvas. Every now and then [illegible] scored a direct hit that flattened the huge cat, but nobody seemed to win. The reason was soon explained.

Gotta knock him off!" the operator shrilled. "Gotta knock Big Tom off the stand! Here, [illegible] — "you look like an old time ball player. Why don't you try? This one's on the house.

Griff sighted on Big Tom, winged a swift [illegible] that caught the stuffed cat [illegible] and knocked it clear of the stand. By the time the [illegible] landed on the ground, the [illegible] was doing a land office business. Players were buying throws on a three-for-a-quarter basis, all [illegible] to see the old codger like Griff.

They were knocking Big Tom over when we left but still nobody but Griff could sweep him off the perch. Griff told us why, when we were safely along the Midway.

"The cat is weighted at the bottom," Griff explained, "so heavily that you can knock it down, but never off."

"Never off. But you knocked it off!"

"Never off," repeated Griff, "if the cat is set where it should be, against a pin at the front of the shelf. But to encourage trade, the operator sometimes sets the cat at a spot a few inches back. Then, when you knock it down, it will topple off the back of the shelf, since it is overbalanced."

"Then the operator recognized you and set the gaff for you to win?"

"You are catching on quickly, chump," expressed Griff. "Excuse me, I mean chum. Yes, like the Bucket Game, Big Tom is tried and true. When a game never grows old, you know it's got something. Still, new ones do keep cropping up. I'll show you."

Griff took us to a most curious contrivance. Behind a counter was a large pedestal from which a stream of air blew steadily upward, keeping a hundred or more ping pong balls floating in constant circulation. The thing was fascinating to watch, the balls being literally balanced on the continual current. However, since they were always getting in each other's way, the result was a swirl in which balls would drop down into a vortex, then get blown up again. Hence the whole mass was in a haphazard, ever-shifting formation.

The coy girl behind the counter took a net and dipped it into a whirl of balls. The net was transparent, so you saw that it went in empty before it came out bringing a ball. The girl took the ball from the net, showed a number that was stamped on it. She smiled.

"See how lucky I am?" The girl said. "Number Nine. That's one of the low numbers" — she gestured to a chart — "and you'd have gotten a big prize if you'd picked this ball. Why don't you try?"

Griff nodded, so we tried, after the girl had tossed the Nine Ball back into the swirl. But every ball we netted — at a dime a ball — had a number higher than ten. Those high numbers just didn't count. We couldn't even win a tin whistle.

"Don't tell us that game is gaffed, Griff," we argued as we walked away. "It was just bad luck. The girl picked a good one, only we didn't."

"That," stated Griff, "was skill — not chance."

"You mean it wasn't a game of chance?"

"The Blower, as it is familiarly known," declared Griff, "is not a game of chance, because the customer has no chance. Behind the counter, the girl was able to dip down deep into the whirl of ping-pong balls. That's where the low numbers stay."

"You mean they don't blow as high as the bigger numbers? Why not, Griff?"

"Because, my boy, they are previously treated with a hypodermic syringe. Not doped in the usual fashion, though they are given a shot of mercury, which allows them to balance and behave normally in the air-current — except that they keep low. Low numbers — stay low! Then the simps can't reach them."

Griff was still chuckling over the Blower and its ways when we stopped beside a platform where customers were tossing dimes on cigarette packs that were lying there. All the packs were of the sort that had a big printed circle on the side. The object was to land a coin there.

"Here's your chance to be lucky!" the grifter told the customers. "Get your cigarettes at a [illegible] and win a carton of cigarettes."

Those dimes just wouldn't stay in the circle. Always, they slid over the edge and a good many of them flopped off the pack entirely. The platform was nearly carpeted with dimes when we left.

"A nice gaff," nodded Griff, approvingly. "Sort of factory-made. Whoever invented cellophane must have wanted to help out the carney grifters. There's just too much slide; a dime never will stop inside the circle."

As a contrast between the new and old, Griff steered us to another cigarette game, one we'd often seen before. Packs of cigarettes were standon little glass shelves and the game was to knock [illegible] from a [illegible].

We tried our marksmanship and missed with [illegible]. Just as you'd get the feel of a gun, you'd find your aim was off worse than ever. The corks varied in weight, but after you'd caught onto that, you still couldn't score many hits. At last Griff gave the operator a wink.

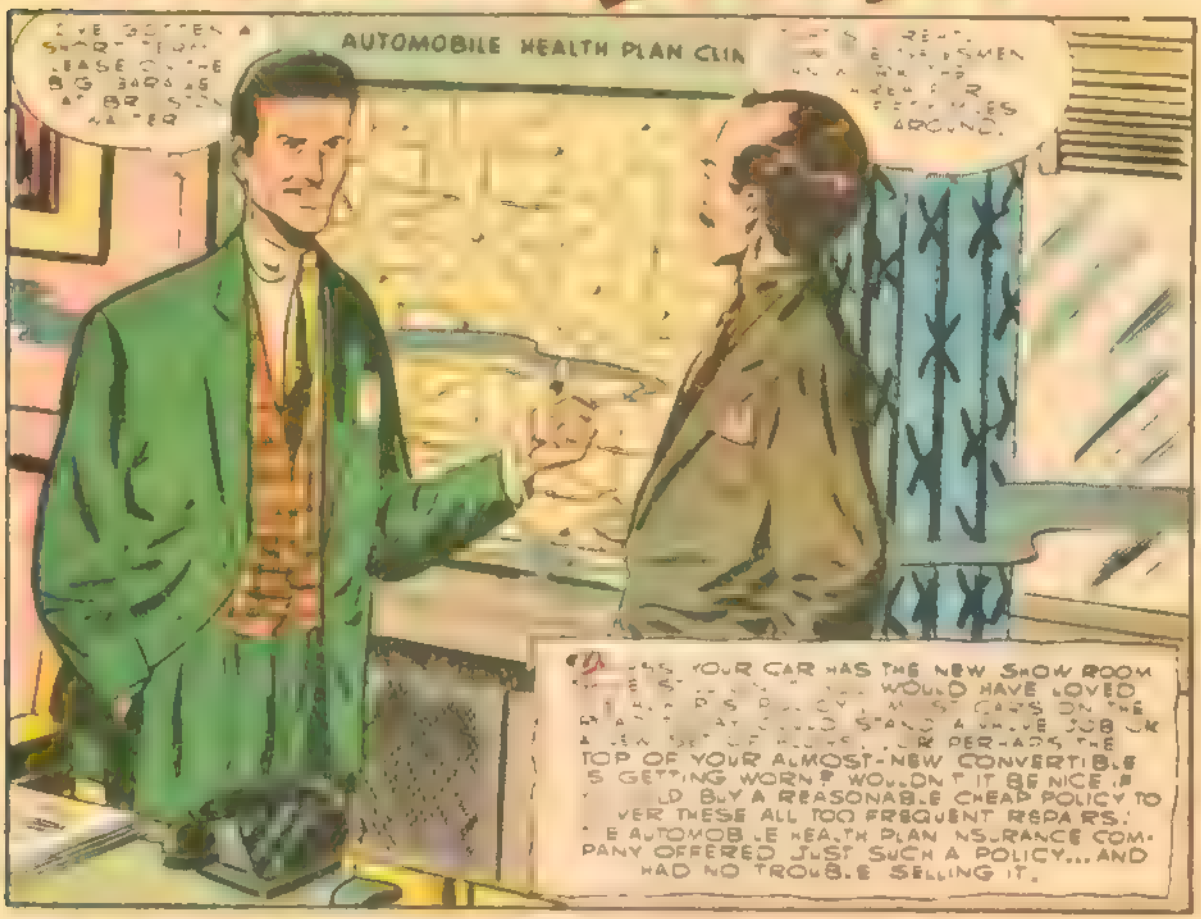
"Hold the gun away from you," Griff suggested, and then look straight along the barrel."

You could see it easily. Somebody had put the gun in a vise and bent the barrel ever so slightly. What it did to your aim was plenty. The better the marksman, the more it hurt.

"And that," Griff decided, "is the neatest gaff along the Midway."

We'd found out one thing from old Griff, the Grifter. The more you see of carnival games, the more you recognize the odds against you. Don't be deceived by occasional winners. They are almost invariably "shills" working with the concessions.

The AUTOMOBILE HEALTH PLAN RACKET


AUTOMOBILE HEALTH PLAN CLIN
YOUR CAR HAS THE NEW SHOW ROOM
WOULD HAVE LOVED
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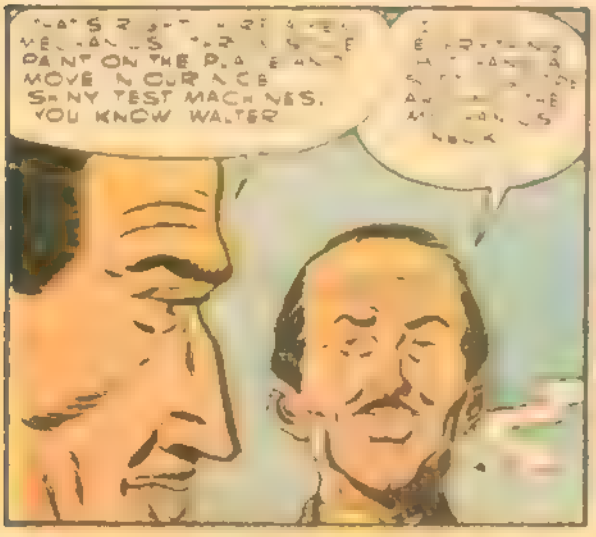
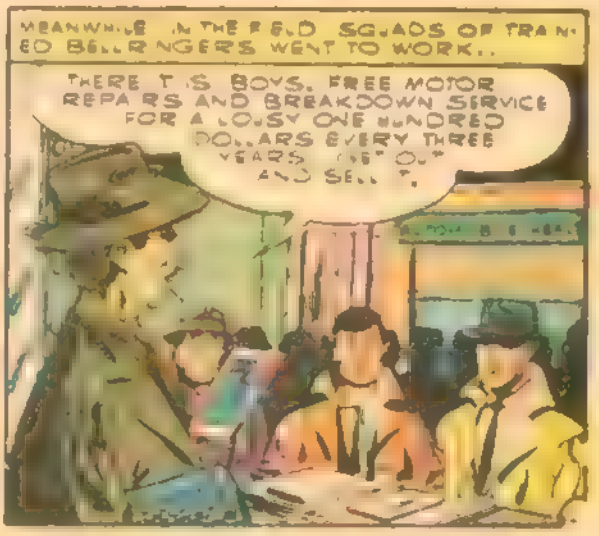
S GETTING WORN? WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF
LD BUY A REASONABLE CHEAP POLICY TO
VER THESE ALL TOO FREQUENT REPAIRS.
E AUTOMOBILE HEALTH PLAN INSURANCE COM-
PANY OFFERED JUST SUCH A POLICY... AND
HAD NO TROUBLE SELLING IT.




MEANWHILE IN THE FIELD SQUADS OF TRAINED BELLRINGERS WENT TO WORK..
THERE T IS BOYS. FREE MOTOR
REPAIRS AND BREAKDOWN SERVICE
FOR A LOUSY ONE HUNDRED
DOLLARS EVERY THREE
AND SELL T.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE SALESMEN WENT TO WORK IN THE AM... THEY HAD A BIG PACKAGE TO SELL... AND SOME OF THEM BOUGHT THE POLICY THEMSELVES
ON THE LEVEL, MR BRIGGS I BOUGHT A POLICY MYSELF. I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY DO IT, BUT YOU CAN GO OVER AND LOOK AT OUR MOTOR ... IN FOR YOURSELF.
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD DEAL...
I SAY, I NEED A CARBURETOR AND VALVE JOB ED AND CAN I LOSE?
THE PREMIUMS ROLLED INTO THE CENTRAL OFFICE... SALESMEN SOLD THE POLICIES AS FAST AS THEY COULD FILL OUT THE FORMS.
OVER NINE HUNDRED POLICIES THIS MORNING WITH A HUNDRED DOLLAR CHECK WITH EACH! HOW LONG CAN IT LAST?
AS THE RENT IS PAID ON THE GARAGES FOR SIXTY DAYS... THAT GIVES US TIME TO MAKE EXPENSES PLUS A NICE PROFIT.
I SAY MATELY? WE SHOULD GET BACK EAST AND LAM
I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO WORK MATELY, WE ARE GOING TO WORK IT THAT WAY.
LAN CLINIC
USE SOME OF THAT MONEY TO OPEN A FEW MOTOR CLINICS IN THIS AREA. THAT ONE MAN'S IDEA IS POSSIBLE AND MOVE TEAMS IN THERE.
MOTOR CLINICS BLOSSOMED THROUGHOUT THE EAST... AND DAWDLED OVER MOTOR REPAIRS, WHILE POLICY HOLDERS WAITED THEIR TURN.
I'VE WAITED A MONTH FOR THAT RING JOB ALREADY. WHEN CAN YOU GET AROUND TO IT?
THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN IN THE SHOP. HE'LL BE THERE IN A DAY OR TWO.

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DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

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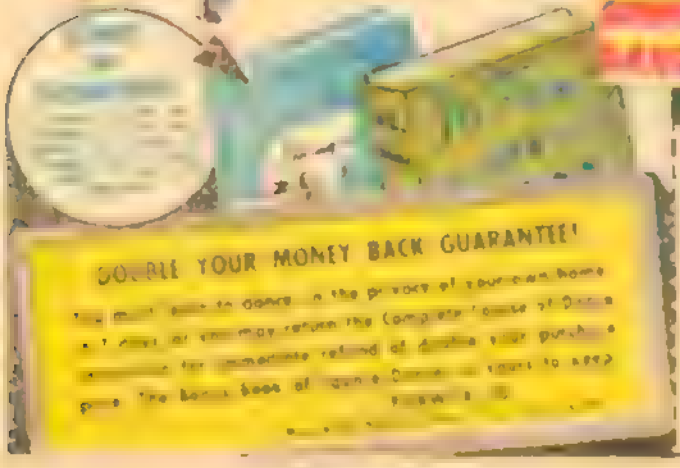

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RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

YES, I'M INTERESTED IN TAKING OUT A POLICY WITH YOU PEOPLE CAN I COME OVER RIGHT OFF HAND? BOTHER COMING TO MIND I HAVE TO GO OUT ANYWAY!
NO SIR, I HEARD ONE OF THE SALESMEN MENTION THAT THEY HAD TO WRITE IN FOR MORE FORMS.
ALL RIGHT I'LL CONTACT ONE OF THEM.
VERY
I... BEGAN WHEN WERE IN THE PLANE. I WAS STARTING TO WORRY.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

GAMBLERS NEVER GAMBLE THEY PREFER SURE MONEY WHEN MAKING A BET THEIR MOTTO IS..
HOOK LINE and SUCKER!
I GET IT, JERRY LET'S GO AND PUT SOME DOUGH ON THE BIG MATCH

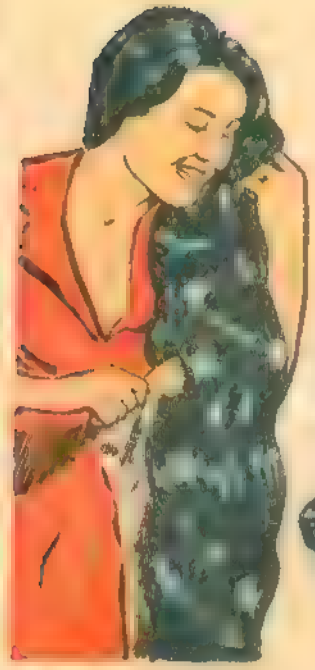
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

ARRIVED IN TOWN AND GAVE A LECTURE ON GAMBLING AT ONE OF THE SERVICE CLUBS
USO
HOOK MORGAN HE ON A TERRIFIC HOOK DOWN THE RIGHT SIDE THE ALLEY...
ONLY HIS HOOK HASN'T BEEN WORKING LATELY
MEANT COULD HOOK
THROWING THESE GAMES?
I KNOW THAT'S I DON'T KNOW AND THAT BOWLING MATCH AT THE ALLEY TOMORROW
WHEN THEY PUT THIS ASH AGAINST THEY BEFORE HE THAT'S
THEY
I'M AND JERRY WERE PLAYING ON THAT SO I GOT THERE AHEAD AND

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



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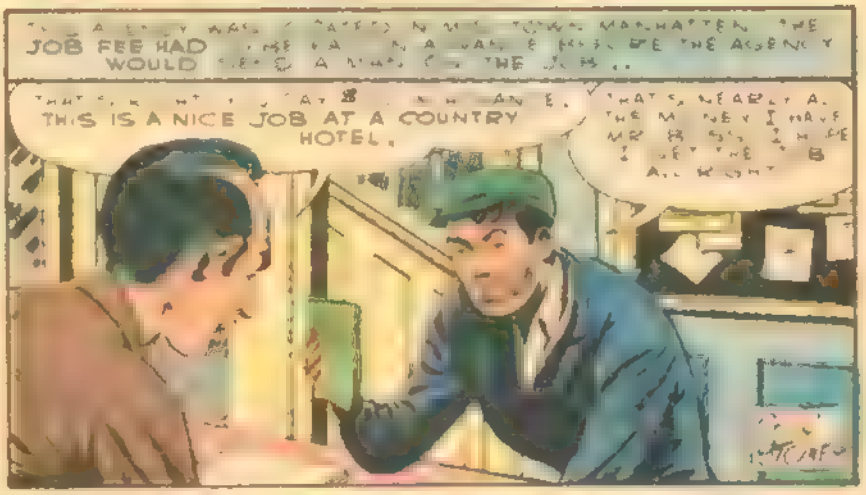
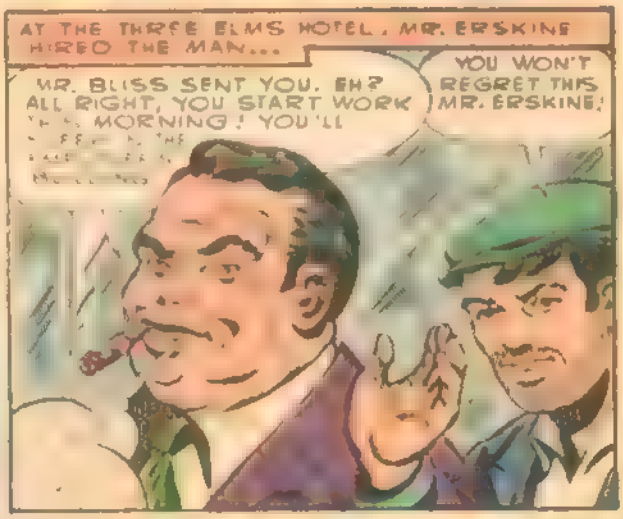
EMPLOYMENT AGENCY RACKET

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES MAY BE LEGITIMATE BUSINESS, BUT MANY OF THEM ARE DOLLAR HUNGRY AND MILK THE PUBLIC FOR JOB FEES--AND DON'T DELIVER THE JOBS THEY PROMISE. THESE AGENCY RACKETS ARE CALLED EMBRACERY.




AT THE THREE ELMS HOTEL, MR. ERSKINE HIRED THE MAN...
MR. BLISS SENT YOU. EH? ALL RIGHT, YOU START WORK MORNING! YOU'LL
YOU WON'T REGRET THIS MR. ERSKINE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

BROWN RETURNED TO NEW YORK... DETERMINED TO GET THE AGENCY FEE BACK-- BUT HE HAD NO LUCK...
ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU GOT THE JOB WE SENT YOU FOR, DIDN'T YOU? BEAT IT, BUDDY! GET OUT!

LATER THAT DAY... ANOTHER JOB APPLICANT APPEARED... PAID HIS FEE, AND WAS TOLD TO REPORT TO THE SAME PLACE...
THAT'S RIGHT, ROGERS! REPORT TO MR. ERSKINE AT THE THREE ELMS HOTEL! HE'S GOT A PAINTER'S JOB OPEN! SAY MR. BLISS SENT YOU!
THANKS, MR. BLISS!

AT THE HOTEL ONCE MORE...
YOU'LL FIND THE PAINT BRUSHES AND THINGS IN THE UTILITY ROOM! YOU HAVE THE JOB, ROGERS!
FOR HOW LONG, MR. ERSKINE? IS THIS A STEADY JOB?
OF COURSE, MR. ROGERS! JUST SO YOU DO THE WORK!

I'M FIRED? AFTER ONLY FOUR DAYS? BUT I PAID FOR A STEADY JOB!
DON'T GIVE ME ANY BACK-TALK, ROGERS! YOUR WORK DOESN'T SATISFY THE MANAGEMENT SO YOU'RE THROUGH!
PAINT
ASCO

I'M NOT THROUGH, ERSKINE, YOU ARE! YOUR SWEET LITTLE RACKET WITH AL BLISS IS OVER! I O'MALLEY OF THE RACKET SQUAD!
THE RACKET SQUAD? BLISS SAID WE'D NEVER GET CAUGHT!

THIS IS O'MALLEY! MAKE THE ARREST ON AL BLISS! NO, THE AGENCY WASN'T IN ON IT! ERSKINE UP HERE WOULD CALL BLISS FOR A MAN AND THEN FIRE HIM AND HIRE ANOTHER! THEY SPLIT THE FEES, OF COURSE!
THE END

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BOYS
GIRLS
LADIES

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Candid Cameras with Carrying Case. Ukuleles (sent postage paid). Other Premiums or Cash Commissions easily yours.

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I DON'T CARE how old or young you are, or how ashamed of your present physical condition you may be. If you can simply raise your arm and flex it I can add SOLID MUSCLE to your biceps—yes, on each arm—in double-quick time! *Only 15 minutes a day*—right in your own home—is all the time I ask of you! And there's no cost if I fail.

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Fat and Flabby?
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—Stanley Lyon, Calif.

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—F. S., New York

"Gained 29 pounds. When I started your course I weighed only 141. Now I weigh 170."
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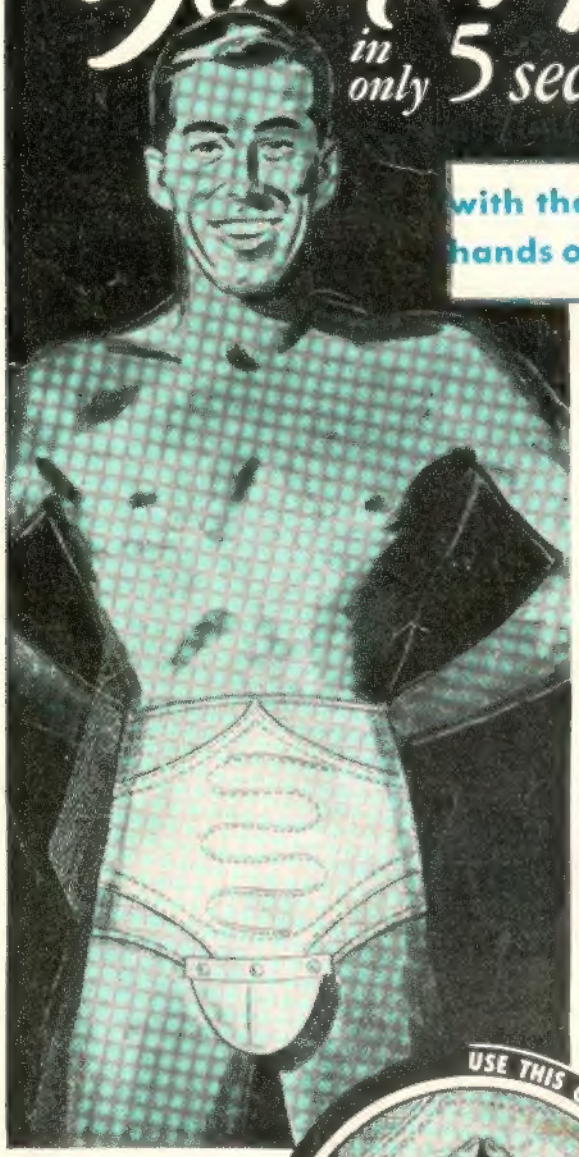

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If a sagging "corporation" is getting you down and spoiling your appearance try this right now: INTERLOCK your hands and press up and in across the extended abdomen. See how the abdomen is pushed back in and held there! Like this sensation of feeling better and looking good? Of course you can't keep your interlocked hand across your abdomen all the time and you do not have to because our brand NEW POWER-KNIT COMMANDER* belt with the exclusive Interlocking Hands of Firm Support* will give you the same results quickly and all the time too!

Back is Held Together—Clothes Fit Better

New Power-Knit Commander makes clothes fit better, actually permits you to take in several notches on your belt. New Commander holds your back together and keeps it from getting the falling-apart feeling.

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TRY 10 DAYS FREE

Send the coupon below and try this amazing new all around abdominal flattener which makes you look smooth and inches slimmer. Wear the New Power-Knit Commander 10 days and then decide. Either you look, feel and enjoy your new appearance much more or return the belt and we'll immediately refund the purchase price.

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Waist 28 to 47

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My present waist measure is _____ inches.

- ☐ I enclose $3.98 ($4.98 for waist 47 and up).
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